

RE-REVIEW

Soviet Weapons 7

A. Small Arms.

7.62mm 8 rounds

1. Pistols. ~~mm~~ Tokarev, M1933 pistol. Standard sidearm of Soviet and most Satellite forces. Basically same design as U.S. Browning .45 but with fewer safeties.

Revolver. 7.62 mm Nagant M1895 is still in limited use. Solid frame revolver; 7 shot cylinder. Has unusual ammo in that bullet is entirely encased in cartridge.

2. Rifle. 7.62 M1891/1930 rifle was basic until 1944. Now used by Navy, security forces, and by most Satellite armies. Over four feet long, six longer than U.S. Garand. Ident. feature is integral box magazine in front of trigger; spike type bayonet fits under muzzle.

b. M1944 Carbine is now basic infantry arm. Same as rifle above but 40 in. long. More a short rifle than real carbine. Most recent model has stock mounted bayonet, on side.

- c. Soviets tried to develop a gas operated auto rifle, but it failed to stand up in the field and was withdrawn in 1943. 7.62 mm Tokarev; used by guard troops and security units. Ident. feats. are curved box magazine, muzzle brake, and vent holes in hand guard; also blade type bayonet. (10 rd. mag.)

3. Submachine Guns.

Basically two types are used. PPSH 1941 and PPS 1943.

71 rd drum
35 rd buf

PPSH 1941: Rifle butt, sloping end of barrel jacket, elongated perforations in jacket, drum magazine. Later types can take curved box magazine. Widely used in Satellite forces; still in use in Soviet Army but being replaced by PPS 1943.

PPS 1943: All metal, folding stock, pistol grip, curved box mag. only, comb. flash hider and compensator, round perforations in barrel jacket.

~~Some comments on~~ Soviet Antitank rifles. No longer in use by Soviet Army, but used by Sa tellites and have shown up in N. Korea.

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-2-

4. Machine Guns. Basically, Soviets have three designs:
7.62mm light, 7.62 mm heavy, and a 12.7 mm heavy.

- a. DP light MG. Rifle butt with bulge at bottom, 47 rd drum mag., perforated barrel jacket, bipod, flash hider. Light, 26 lbs loaded, and can be carried by one man

has
DPM light MG. Same as DP, but has no bulge in stock, pistol grip, and extended operating spring.

DT & DTM Tank MG. Same as DP but adapted to tank use. Adjustable metal shoulder stock, pistol grip, thick drum (47 rd), and a bipod with attached sight for ground use.

Used as secondary weapons on tanks, and as only weapon on Soviet armored cars.

Note: DP and DPM are widely used by Soviet & Satellites.

M1946 Company MG. Latest auto. weapon. Probably standard now to replace old Maxims. Based on DPM design, but incorporates belt feed mechanism, and has carrying handle added. Can also use drums.

~~M1910 Maxim Longtime standard and favorite of Soviet troops.~~
b. Heavy Machine Guns.

Used by security forces and Satellites
(1) M 1910 Maxim. Longtime standard and favorite of ~~Soviet~~ Russian troops. Water cooled, 7.62 mm, wheel mount, with or without shield, belt fed, grooved water jacket, twin hand grips.

- (2) M 1943 Goryunov MG, 7.62 mm. Has replaced Maxim as standard heavy MG. Not generally issued to Satellites, but found in Korea.
Ident. feats.: Wheel mount, no barrel jacket, carrying handle, long, single trail, flash hider, shield, double hand grips, pintle at rear of trail for attaching in AA position, gas cylinder below barrel.

- (3) 12.7 mm DShK Heavy MG. Standard Soviet .50 cal MG. Mainly for AA defense. Almost always seen on heavy tanks and SP arty.
Ident. feats: Heavy ribbed air cooled barrel, round or square muzzle brake, gas cylinder below barrel, wheel mount, gunner's saddle, shield sometimes, double hand grips.
Trail can be converted into AA tripod, with wheels and axle detached. Found in all Satellite armies.

B. Mortars and Artillery.

1. Mortars. Soviets do not appear to use anything lighter than 82 mm mortar.
 - a. ~~(1)~~ 82 mm M1937. Limited standard in Soviet Army. Standard in Satellites, and N. Korean Army. Flat top base plate, and two short shock absorber spring housings, and bipod similar to U.S. 81 mm mortar. Carried in 3 loads, ea about 45 lbs.
 - b. 82 mm M 1943. Believed standard in Soviet Army. Wheel mount, long shock absorber housing, concave base plate, and muzzle clamp with handle for traveling position. About 125 lbs.
 - c. 107 mm mountain-pack regimental, M1938. Standard only in mtn. units. Drawn by horses or packed on animals.
 - d. 120 mm Regimental mortar, M 1943. Horse drawn or pack animal; truck drawn. Removed from caisson for firing.
 - e. 160 MM M 1943. Believed standard. No caisson. Truck drawn by muzzle clamp.
2. Howitzers. Soviets appear to use a great variety of artillery pieces, but only a small number are considered standard.
 - a. 76 mm M1938 mountain howitzer. Breaks down into 10 pack loads. Most of rear portion of barrel encased in jacket, sloping shield, solid disc wheels, hinged trails, box type trail. Another ~~earlier~~ model, M 1943, with tubular split trail, and turned back shield is in wide use among Satellites.
 - b. 122 mm M 1938. Standard in Soviet Army Divisions, and in Czech, Polish, and N. Korean Armies. Also used by other Satellites.
Medium length tube, recoil mech. below and recuperator above tube, split trail.
 - c. 152 mm M 1943. Becoming standard div. arty. weapon.. Light gun for its size, using same carriage as 122 mm M 1938 how.
Double baffle muzzle brake, tube about double length of recoil and recuperator mech. Also known to be in Bulgarian Army.
 - d. 152 mm M 1937 gun-how. Standard in Soviet and nearly all Satellites.
Long muzzle brake (12 baffle), equilibrators, recoil & recup combined in cradle, travels with tube resting on carriage and with trail on separate axle.

-4-

- e. Soviet also has howitzers in 203, 280, and 305 mm., but all are considered limited standard.

203 mm M 1931. Main heavy how. of Soviet army or army group arty. Also seen in Bulgaria and Yug. Believed used for coast defense in Bulg. and Albania. Moves on tractor carriage for short haul; tube removed and place on wheel carriage for long haul.

280 mm M 1939. Called mortar by Soviets. Uses same carriage as above. Tube is slightly shorter and much heavier in relation to carriage.

X 305 mm M 1940. May no longer be used. Large handwheel on upper carriage, towed in three loads by track vehicles.

- 3. Guns. Like howitzers, while there are many types still in use, the Soviets have standardized on a few basic models.

- a. 76 mm M 1942 Div. Gun. Standard divisional light gun in Soviet and provided in quantity to all Satellites. Used extensively for antitank.
Muzzle brake, long tube, recoil and recup mechs in separate units, tubular split trail.

- b. 85 mm M 1945 div. gun. Believed replacing 76 mm M 1942 Gun as standard for field and antitank use. Same gun used in T-34 medium tank, which was adapted from M 1939 AA gun.

Long tube with muzzle brake, tube mounted in circular cradle, recoil and recup mechs entirely behind shield, tubular split trails.

- c. 122 mm Corps Gun, M M 1931/37. Standard in Soviet Army, Bulgaria, Poland, Hungary, N. Korea, and possibly Czecho. Used by Yugo. and Spain.

Long tube, prominent equilibrators sloped backward, travels with tube retracted, and with trail on separate axle. Recoil and recup combined with cradle.

An earlier model with wood wheels and solid rubber tires, and with equilibrators sloped forward, are used by Yugo. and by Spain.

- d. 152 mm Gun M 1935. In Soviet service; not in Satellites. May be in process of replacement by more modern gun.

one

Long tube with ~~one~~ prominent step., tractor mount, tube carried on separate wheeled trailer for long hauls. The 203 MM How. and 280 mm "Mortar" also use same carriage. Distinguished from each other by length and size of tube, and by position of steps in tube.

-5-

4. Antitank. Soviet has two basic AT guns.

- a. 57 mm M 1943 (Zis). Standard AT gun in Soviet rifle battalion and regt. Standard in Bulg, Czecho, Poland, Rumania. Small numbers seen in Korea.

Uses same carriage as 76 mm M1942 div. gun; longer and smaller tube, no muzzle brake, box type split trails.

- b. 100 mm M 1944 Field-Antitank Gun. Standard use in independent Soviet AT units, not in Satellites. Effective against very heavy tanks and also for counterbattery fire.

Double baffle muzzle brake, very long tube (18'), mounted low on carriage, sloping bent back shield, very large breech ring.

- c. 85 mm Div gun also serves as excellent AT gun.

5. Antiaircraft Arty. Standard on two basic types.

- a. 37 mm M 1939. Also used by all Satellites, and in Finland, and Yugo. and Korea.

Resembles Bofors 40, except that recoil cylinder extends shortly beyond barrel jacket, recoil spring is not exposed, has double handwheels for traverse and elevating, may have a shield. Flash hider

- b. 85 mm M 1939 and M 1944. Supplied to most all Satellites, incl China and N. Korea. Finland has modified it to fire 88 mm. A 100 mm AA gun has also appeared recently.
Multi-baffle muzzle brake.

- 6. Coast defense. Little info on Soviet types. Probably are using heavy field pieces, such as 210 mm Gun, and 105 mm AA Gun.

- 7. Recoilless. Soviets are apparently doing little here. Chinese Reds have built a model based on the U.S. model.

C. Rockets & Launchers. Soviets have gone in for considerable rocket development, stemming from World War II use. Most launchers are rail type, but some large rockets are fired individually from packing crates.

- 1. M-13 132 mm is basic launcher. Eight long rails on 6x6 truck. Fires 16 rockets. Famous Katyusha of World War II and still standard. Range of 9700 yards. Found in all tank & mech divs.
93 lb. projectile

-6-

2. 82 mm Launcher which fires 48 rockets from a 6x6 truck. Model designation not known. Believed used for AA barrage against low flying targets. Has 360 Deg. traverse. Others have only 20-30 deg.

An obsolete M-8 82 mm launcher which fires 36-38 rockets still exists. Can be identified by its three tiers of short rails about 40 inches long.

3. M-31 100 mm Launcher. May replace the M-13 as standard launcher. Used as part of support artillery by army or army group. Fires 200 lb. projectile up to 6500 yards.

Rails inside a box like framework, mounted on 6x6 truck. All truck launchers have screw jacks at rear to take strain off truck springs when firing.

4. Soviets also have a 300 mm rocket launched from its packing crate, short range, up to 2700 yards (approx.)

view:

5. Bazookas. As far as we know, Soviets have copied and improved on the German Panzerfaust type antitank rocket launcher. Fires a shaped charge capable of penetrating 8 in. of armor, at 30 deg. Range: 100-200 yds.

A newer type is believed to be an 82 mm smooth bore recoilless weapon on a two wheel mount. Fires a fin stabilized round, armor penetration estimated at 9-10.5 inches at 0 deg.

D. Tanks, & Armored Cars, and Self Propelled Artillery.

1. In tank development, Soviets have achieved remarkable degree of standardization, on a medium and heavy tank.

- a. T-34 Medium. Standard medium, developed in World War II. Used by Satellites, and in Korea.

Long tube 85 mm gun, angular hull with well sloped sides, rounded turret with overhang, turret well forward, turret has six sides, rounded in front, driver's hatch in upper left of front slope, five large road wheels, rear sprocket. 35 tons, up to 3 in. armor plate.

-7-

- b. JS-3 Heavy Tank. Standard heavy, previous JS-1 and JS-2 are still in use.

122 mm gun, long tube with muzzle brake, cast ~~hull~~ turret, well sloped with turtle back, front hull V-shaped, six individually mounted road wheels, 3 large track rollers, frequently seen with four jettison fuel tanks.

Note: All Soviet medium and heavy tanks, and most SP mounts, use the same V-12 diesel engine.

2. Soviets have standardized on a World War II model armored car. Jeep chassis built up. Carries one 7.62 mm MG.

Easily identified by angular, sloped sides, open top turret, turret high at rear, spare tire on back.

Soviets also have come out recently with a new armored vehicle resembling the U.S. Scout car, except theirs has 6x6 chassis.

3. Self-Propelled Artillery.

- a. SU-76 is standard support weapon in infantry rifle regt. Mounts 76 mm gun on obsolete T-70 tank chassis.

Gun has muzzle brake, turret like superstructure well back, large armored jacket over recoil mech, six road wheels, 3 track rollers.

- b. Su-100. 100 mm gun on T-34 tank chassis, Standard in Soviet Army. Long tube, no muzzle brake, mounted in front hull slightly right of center, driver's hatch on left side, round cupola on right top of superstructure.

- c. JSU-122. 122 mm gun on heavy tank chassis. Long tube, no muzzle brake, mounted in right front hull, heavy mantlet, large box-like superstructure about half way back.

- d. JSU-249. Same as above, but mounts the 122 mm tank gun. Nomenclature is questionable.

- e. JSU-152. Same as JSU-122 but has 152 mm gun-howitzer. Tube is shorter, heavier, and has the unusual multi-baffle muzzle brake.

Caliber conversion chart:

| mm | 1 mm = 0.03937 inches | cal. |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---------|
| 5.62 | | |
| 7.62 | .300 | 30 cal. |
| 9 | .354 | |
| 11.43 | .450 | 45 cal. |
| 12.7 | .501 | 50 cal. |
| 76 | 3.000 | |
| 82 | 3.228 | |
| 107 | 4.212 | |
| 120 | 4.724 | |
| 152 | 5.984 | |
| 155 | 6.102 | |

Terms:

| | |
|----------------|--|
| <u>Caliber</u> | Barrel diameter of small arms |
| <u>Bore</u> | Barrel diameter of mortars and artillery pieces |
| <u>Rifling</u> | Spiral grooves running down inside of gun barrels. |